Reward Denied King Slaying Witness

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The man who led police to the rifle which investigators believe killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been denied a $100,000 reward yesterday which had been offered for help in convicting the killer.

Charles Quitman Stephens, who lived in the rooming house where the shot that killed King was fired on April 4, 1968, told police then that he saw a man running from a bathroom carrying a long package. A rifle with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray was found inside later. Ray now is serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to murder in King's death.

Judge Charles A. Rond yesterday denied the rewards because Stephens gave police most of his information before the rewards were posted and it did not lead "to the identification and arrest of James Earl Ray as murderer." The state court of appeals upheld Rond's ruling.